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NEWBERRY, S. C.

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TWICE A WEEK, \$1.50 A YEAR.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

To the Editor of The Herald and News:

I wish to direct attention to the Newberry Public Library, and if in doing so I appear to scold other persons, I wish it known that I take to myself more blame than I impute to all the rest of the community. During the whole of the ten years since my return home after my sojourn in Greenwood, I have neglected, until a few weeks ago, to subscribe to the library, or have anything to do with it. I am heartily sorry for this bad behavior, and it is largely in consequence of my contrition and to make some amends, that I write as I now do.

The benevolence of Hon. George S. Mower in giving a room, or, if desired, two rooms, for the use of the library, and the courageous and persevering effort of some of our ladies, are about all that has kept the enterprise alive and going. But the number of patrons is so small that the ladies have not had the means to purchase many books which they desire to have, or to obtain such furnishing for the room as they would wish, and ought to have.

Yet they have kept heart and hope, buying such books as they could, opening the library three times every week, and in turn, and without pay, performing all the functions of librarians—and never begging help. By this persistent exertion they have accumulated about fifteen hundred volumes, and furnished a good deal of good reading to those who have been wise enough to avail themselves of the opportunity. And during all their discouraging struggle we men, with few exceptions, have stood aloof. The women seem to have about three-fourths of the public spirit in Newberry, and about the same proportion of energy. These library ladies, the Bachelor maids, the Civic association, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and the various women's charitable and literary societies, are doing I suspect, ten times as much for the welfare of the community as all the men put together. I need not mention their church work; everybody knows that they keep all the churches going.

Now the cost of subscription to the library is only one dollar per year. A subscriber is allowed to take out two volumes at the same time, and to keep them two weeks with the privilege of renewal. Many a one of us pays more than a dollar for a copy of such trash as "Red Pottage" or "V. V.'s Eyes," while for a dollar we could read from the library, "The Seige of the Seven Sultans," and "The Stranger," and twenty more rational, clean books. And there are a good many books besides novels—encyclopedias, histories, biographies, essays, etc. I found there, the other day, a valuable historical work which I have never seen elsewhere.

The population of the town of Greenwood is very little larger than that of Newberry, and her wealth is certainly no greater than ours; yet there they have a library of about twenty-five hundred volumes; they pay their librarian, and they are working and expect to secure a Carnegie building on the lot lately donated by the town, which will be upon their assuring \$2,000 annually for the sustenance of the library. I doubt that our library has received \$2,000 during the whole thirteen years of its existence.

Since the arousing of the Southern people from their long lethargy of illiteracy it is hardly necessary to remind anyone that books are the store-house and treasuries of knowledge; the seminaries of sound thought, pure sentiment, and refined taste; the best companions in our solitude; our teachers and comforters in distress; and most efficient in keeping boys from vice and girls from frivolous tomfoolery. Every one who has the general welfare at heart should be anxious to put good books within easy reach of the people.

The municipal authorities should appropriate some money for the support of this enterprise, recognizing it as beneficial to the people of the town; and, as I urged years ago, the county authorities should allow it quarters in the old court house, as

they have done wisely and patriotically for the Rest Room. But our citizens ought not to wait for, or depend upon public help. They should rally to the assistance of the public-spirited ladies who have worked so long amid discouragements, especially since every subscriber will derive, for himself as for his family, or for both, a benefit of far greater value than the little one dollar of yearly cost. We shall have to suffer, and to take a back seat, and to be prodded, and argued with and entreated, and made a jest of by neighboring towns, for a good while, before we shall acquire such an appreciation of public benefits as Greenwood is blessed with, but surely this town, of nearly six thousand inhabitants, whose four banks hold deposits of more than a million dollars, which has three flourishing cotton mills, a fine college, and first rate schools—surely this town has scores of men and women who can give without missing it, the poor, little, pitiful one dollar a year for subscription to so worthy an enterprise as the Public Library. I believe that many of them will subscribe when they come to think about it. But they need to be reminded of the matter—just as I did.

J. F. J. Caldwell.

Lexington Has a \$100,000 Fire.

Lexington, March 28.—Twenty buildings in the heart of Lexington were destroyed by fire early today, causing a loss estimated at \$100,000, half of which was covered by insurance. Only three business buildings were untouched and early today the fire which had been fanned by a stiff breeze, still was burning.

There was no water connection in Lexington except a mill pond some distance from the fire. The Columbia company stretched its hose, but as the fire was under control when the Columbia company arrived they did not throw water on it.

The following buildings were destroyed: A. C. Sawyer's drug store, two story, brick; A. J. Mathias, general merchandise, one story, wooden; Leevil Hall, general merchandise, one story, wooden; Lexington Dispatch, one story, wooden; E. B. Roof & Son, groceries, one story, wooden; Barre Hardware company, two story, wooden; Reagin Shoe Shop, one story, wooden; Pickens Mitchell's meat market, one story, wooden; Corley Barber shop, one story, wooden; Roof building (not occupied) two story, wooden; E. C. Dreher company clothing, one story brick; Enterprize Hardware company, one story brick; Surratt's bazaar, one story, wooden; G. M. Harman, residence, two story, wooden; Scott Hendrix Furniture company two story, wooden; Citizen Telephone exchange, brick; Mrs. E. G. Wingard's grocery, one story, brick; Meetzle hotel, two story, wooden; S. J. Long's barber shop, two story, brick; Bank of Western Carolina, one story brick; unoccupied residence, owned by Scott Hendrix, two story wooden.

Lexington, a town of about 1,800 population, has no fire department but local volunteers were aided by a squad of Columbia firemen sent here with fire fighting apparatus.

The origin of the fire is not known.

DR. HARMS ADDRESSES UNION COUNTY TEACHERS

Dr. Harm's subject was "The Spirit of the Teacher," and in his address he emphasized how that in order to do effective work for the advancement of education, and particularly the proper training of the youth of the land, it was necessary for teachers to have strong character as well as much culture, indeed teaching would fail in its truest mission and greatest success if a teacher's character was not developed and in its highest and best sense, no matter what their intellectual attainments might be.—Union Progress.

The D. A. Dickert Chapter.

The D. A. Dickert Chapter Children of Confederacy, will meet Saturday afternoon, April 1 at 4 o'clock at the residence of Mrs. C. J. Purcell. All who have not paid dues will please bring them.

Aileen Dunn, Secretary.

Louise Perry, President.

STATE SUPT. SWEARINGEN VISITS NEWBERRY SCHOOLS

It was our good fortune as well as pleasure to visit four of the schools of the county during the week in company with Mr. J. E. Swearingen, State superintendent of education, and County Superintendent C. P. Barre.

We have always taken an interest in the schools, but having served as county superintendent of education for a brief period, and having had a little to do with arousing the school spirit and the awakening of the people in the cause of better schools, we have also had an awakening on the subject. The schools at Jolly Street and Silverstreet and Chappell's especially took on new life and built new school houses and increased their teaching force under our brief administration and it is especially pleasant to visit them and to see that the school spirit is still alive and the interest unabated. All three of these districts had practically no buildings and in one we completed the building and started the work in the others.

On Monday night there was a meeting at Jolly Street in the interest of discussing means to increase the income of the district so that the school term may be kept to at least seven months and the school may retain the \$300 State aid as a three teacher rural graded school. This is a typical country district with no corporate property and with only \$36,000 of taxable property and with few taxpayers who pay on more than \$1,000. And yet the school spirit prevails to a large degree and should be encouraged in every way possible. The district is to vote today on the question of levying an additional four mills making the maximum that can be levied under the constitution. And we believe the tax will be voted with practical unanimity and those who may vote against it will fall in line and give their hearty cooperation to the support of the school. That is the spirit that should be encouraged. Superintendent Swearingen practically said that if the tax were voted he would then be in position to help the school with State aid from the fund which is given to him to aid weak and needy schools. He made a plain and practical talk and told the people just what he was doing. Mr. Barre explained the financial condition and status of the district at this time. The writer was called on and responded briefly.

After the meeting Mr. Swearingen and Mr. Barre came on to Newberry with us. We were delayed some en route by having to repair a puncture but we reached Newberry along about one o'clock in the morning. We were pleased to have both of the officials spend the night with us.

Tuesday morning Mr. Swearingen and Mr. Barre visited the St. Phillips school. We regret that it was impossible for us to leave the office and therefore the pleasure of a visit to this school was not ours. They also visited the city schools during the morning.

We had arranged to make a visit to the old folk at home on Tuesday and to stop at Chappell's school on our return, so we offered to take Mr. Swearingen and Mr. Barre to Chappell's. We left Newberry something after 12 o'clock and drove out to Silverstreet where they have one of the best school houses in the county and where they also have a good three teacher school and a stop of about an hour was made at this school. Mr. Sligh is principal and Misses Senn and Summer teachers in the primary department. About an hour was spent in this school and the greatest part of the time in Miss Summer's room where she has about thirty little fellows just beginning. It was very interesting to note how she has trained them and how well they read and what excellent discipline prevails and what fine order.

The next stop was at Ridge Spring which is taught by Misses Simpson and Smith, the good people of this district having voted a four mills tax and would be a rural graded school but for the fact they have not the children, but they are giving those that are there the best of training. These young ladies are doing excellent work. They have only 26 children. Our stop here was brief.

We then drove on to Chappell's and

left Messrs Barre and Swearingen and went on to the old home where we found the folk well and glad to see us. After spending about two hours here and getting a good square meal we came back to Chappell's for the school meeting.

The Chappell's school is taught by Miss Lizzie Neel and Miss Boone. This is one of the handsomest country school houses in the State, and we know they have a good school, and this is one of the finest communities in the State. We don't know Miss Boone but we know that Miss Neel is one of those girls who does things and she knows how.

The large auditorium is seated with handsome opera chairs and the class rooms are furnished with modern individual desks. The district needs more white people and more children. The writer presided at the meeting at the request of the principal and presented Mr. Barre who made a short talk and Mr. Swearingen who delivered a very excellent address.

The attendance was good and the interest in the school was manifest. In fact the people are proud of their achievements in the school work and they have a right to be.

President Harms of Newberry college will deliver an address at Chappell's in the school auditorium on Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock, April 11.

It is always a pleasure to us to visit the schools and to see that the interest in the cause of the education of the children is kept alive.

The road from Newberry to Silverstreet has been greatly improved but it is rough and bumpy and needs leveling down. The surfacing has been well done but it is blown out in holes and makes it a little rough and needs smothering down.

From Silverstreet on to Chappell's the road is fairly good but too narrow. Just beyond Mr. H. T. Fellers' residence the supervisor should do some work. In some places the road is the worst we have seen in the county, and one or two little bridges are in bad repair and dangerous to drive over. And from Chappell's on to the river the road is in great need of work. The supervisor tells us that he is going down there pretty soon to do some work and he should do it at once and we are sure he will have the cooperation of the business men and interests of Chappell's. This is an important trade centre and should have the attention of the supervisor.

CAME TO NEWBERRY TO PURCHASE EASTER FRONTS

There was something doing and doing fast in police circles Wednesday morning. On that morning there arrived in Newberry on the early morning C. N. & L. train at 5:19, three dusky strangers, who afterward stated that they were from Columbia and had come to Newberry to purchase their Easter fronts (translated into plain English a front is a suit of clothes). "Must have come to buy fronts" for their women, too, as they started their shopping by stealing skirts," commented Chief Rodolfsperger. Their names were Lee Dominick, John Williams and Pink Kennedy.

At Otto Klettner's they swiped a lady's skirt and they called on Mr. Vlodzky, whose contribution to their cup of happiness was a pair of beautiful blue pants.

By this time Policemen Cousins and Connelly began to sniff the air and in a few minutes they were running a hot trail which led to the speedy capture of Lee and Pink, but John flew shot out of a gun. It was a free for all chase and everybody in sight joined in it, Johnnie was finally overtaken in Mr. P. F. Baxter's lot and brought to police headquarters about 9 o'clock.

In order to speed up the wheels of justice an extra session of the recorder's court was called at 1 o'clock, and the three thieves were indicted on four counts, vagrancy, beating train and two charges of stealing. As they had no money they took 30 days each on each charge or 120 days, totalling 480 days. Mr. Tom Teague decorated them with lovely, clinging iron shackles.

MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF JIM CLARK INVESTIGATED

Bess Robinson and Jane Ruff Held As Accessories—Real Party to Killing Unknown.

The coroner's jury empanelled to investigate the mysterious death of the negro, Jim Clark, whose body was found near the western city limits on Monday morning, March 20th, assembled in the court house Monday night and after the examination of a number of witnesses, brought in the verdict "that the said Jim Clark came to his death from a gunshot wound in the hands of a party or parties unknown to the jury with Bessie Robinson and Jane Ruff as accessories." The members of the jury were J. H. Clary, foreman, Sam Burns, Jesse Hitt, M. F. Hardean, Virgil M. Kiser, Robert Hutchison.

Dr. J. M. Kibler who made the post mortem examination was present and his certificate was placed in evidence. It follows: "This is to certify that I have this day examined the body of Jim Clark and performed an autopsy and find that the deceased came to his death from the effects of a gun shot wound, the ball entering the body through the centre of the sternum on a line one inch below the level of the nipple and cutting the descending aorta."

The first witness examined was Minnie Lark. She testified that on Monday morning, March 20th she found a man lying on the ground (described the locality) and called to Will Watkins' wife that she had found a man who was either drunk or dead but Watkins' wife replied that she was sick and could not come out. She next saw the street overseer, Mr. Joe Werts and called him and he came and felt his hand and said, "yes, this nigger is dead and has been dead for some time." She said that she did not know the dead man until they turned the body over and then she recognized it as that of Jim Clark.

Mr. Joe Werts, the next witness, testified that about 20 minutes to 12 o'clock he was called to the spot where Jim Clark's body was found and on examination found that he was dead. He was lying with his face to the ground and his shirt collar was pulled up partly over his head. There was no blood on top shirt but blood was found on undershirt. (While examining clothes \$2 in silver dropped out on the ground. Witness thought though the money had been placed in dead man's pocket after he was killed. The negro's coat and undershirt were on hindpart foremost. Dr. J. M. Kibler testified that it was possible for the deceased to have been slipped and removed to the spot where found without leaving blood stains on bed clothing.

Jim Leak said he knew Jim Clark and recognized some property shown him by the sheriff which was found near the body of Jim Clark. The spot where Clark was found is about 80 yards from Jane Ruff's house.

Undertaker P. F. Baxter exhibited Clark's clothing—coat, pants and shirt, etc., and testified that if Clark had been shot with his coat on like it was when his body was found, there would have been a bullet hole through the back of the coat. The top shirt was all torn up.

Jim Clark's widow, Hester Clark, said that Jim left home at 9 o'clock Saturday night. That she began searching for him Sunday morning about 10 o'clock and went to Jane Ruff's and inquired about him and was told by Jane Ruff that Jim had been there a little while on Saturday night but that he had left. Witness went back to Jane's house Sunday night but Jane told her Jim was not there; that she could take a lamp and look for him if she wanted to. She did not look but went back home.

Jake Golden said that he was at Ollie Bryan's party Saturday night and that Jim Clark was drunk and cursing and that Bess Robinson asked him to take them home in his auto transfer, that he started with them and when they got to Jane Ruff's Bess got out and called Jane to the door. They both came to the car and persuaded Jim to go into the house. Bess went back to the party with witness when he got back Joe Jackson had shot Hiram Hurst. Some one asked him to go for Sheriff Blease, which

he did. Big crowd at Ollie Bracy's, some were drinking. Did not know why Bess had him stop car at Jane's house.

Balaam Sims said that he brought Bess Robinson to Carter's corner Saturday night about 12:30 and said she was going to Jane Ruff's for some of her clothes.

Bess Robinson testified that Jim Clark was drunk and fighting every one. That some walked out into the floor and said that if they did not get him away from there they were going to kill him. Some said it was Mr. Cain who made the threat. She did not want Jim to get hurt and got Jake Golden to take him to Jane Ruff's house. She and Jake went back to the party. Left the party with Balaam Sims and got out at Carter's corner; went by Jane's house and asked if Jim was still there. Jane said he had gone back to the party. Got home about 12:30 or 1 o'clock. Went back to Jane's house Sunday morning. Jane Ruff came to witness' house Sunday night and said, "if Jim Clark was in my house to get him out for there was something dead up the creek and asked if I was coming to her house Sunday night."

Jim Andrews said that he saw Bess Robinson near G. J. Jones' store Sunday morning about 2:30 o'clock, going toward Helena. Did not see a white man at party.

Delia Herbert said she lived a short distance from where Clark's body was found and heard pistol shot in direction of Jane Ruff's house sometime after midnight.

Jane Ruff was the star witness and made quite an impression as a burnt cork artist. She said that Bess Robinson brought Jim Clark to her house Saturday night about 11:30 o'clock. Bess said, "Aunt Jane come out here and git Jim, he has been up at the party raisin' the devil." "I went out there and said what's ter matter wid you boy? I tak him by the arm and led him into the house, Bess hopped into the car and went back to the frolic. I asked Jim if he wanted me to send for Hester, he said he was going back to the frolic." Bess came back and spent the night with witness.

Mr. Ben Cook said that he saw Jim Clark's body Sunday afternoon about 6 o'clock but thought he was lying there drunk.

Mary Pressley said that she saw Bess Robinson going back toward town early Sunday morning.

Bess Robinson and Jane Ruff are now in jail awaiting trial at the next term of court.

ORDINATION SERVICES ENOREE BAPTIST CHURCH

There will be an ordination service at Enoree Baptist church, Sunday, April the 2nd, for the purpose of ordaining as deacons Brothers J. W. Suber, and C. M. King. Rev. G. J. Peyton, of Crawford, Ga., will preach the ordination sermon. There will be two services, with dinner served at the church.

The public is cordially invited to attend these services, and all visiting deacons will be requested to help from the "Presbytery."

"Ice Cream Festival at Trinity."

Everybody is invited to come to the ice cream festival at Trinity school house on Friday evening, April 7th. An orange tree will be on display. The place, Trinity school house; the date Friday, March 7th, and the hours, 5 to 11.

COTTON MARKET

Newberry.	
Cotton	11 7-8c
Prosperity.	
Cotton	11 1/2c
Pomaria.	
Cotton	11 3/4c
Little Mountain.	
Cotton	11 7-8c
Whitmire.	
Cotton	11 3/4c